

**November 4, 2021**  
**STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)**  
**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT**  
**1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137**  
**Richmond/Henrico Rooms**  
**Richmond, VA 23229**

**Members Present:** Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Vice-Chair, CPMT – local DSS Representative; Em Parente, DSS; Mills Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; The Honorable Richard Campbell, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Nina Marino, DBHDS; William Stanley, CPMT – local CSU Representative; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA; Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative

**Members Absent:** Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Laura Reed, DMAS; Sabrina Gross, DOE;

**CSA Staff Members Present:** Scott Reiner, Zandra Relaford, Stephanie Bacote, Mary Bell, Marsha Mucha

**Welcome/Opening**

Lesley Abashian called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and she welcomed everyone. Mrs. Abashian noted that Susan Aylor, who previously served as the alternate CPMT – school representative to SLAT, will now be serving as the primary representative.

Mr. Reiner introduced the use of the “Owl” at today’s meeting. He noted an increase in the interest of stakeholders for a virtual option for participation in meetings. It is hoped that use of this device will meet that need.

**Public Comment Period**

Public comment was given by Mary Ottinot, a parent from Fairfax. She noted that she was a registered nurse, and parent advocate who moved to Virginia from Chicago. She has three children with disabilities. Ms. Ottinot also made public comment at the August 5, 2021 SLAT meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 5, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Rebecca Vinroot, seconded by Nina Marino and carried.

**Current Workgroups/Committees**

Mrs. Abashian noted the need for SLAT members to stay up-to-date on workgroups and/or committees whose activities intersect and/or are related to CSA. Members shared ideas on ways to meet this need. During discussion it was noted that Mr. Reiner provides a comprehensive report at each SLAT meeting as well as regularly sharing other relevant information with local CSA offices and other stakeholders. Additionally, members can find information about upcoming public meetings on the Commonwealth Calendar.

**Family First – How’s It’s Going and What’s Next?**

Em Parente reported on behalf of VDSS. She reported that as of July 1, 2021, Family First funding became available. VDSS is primarily funding three evidence-based prevention services through Family

First: multi-systemic therapy (MST), family functional therapy (FFT) and parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT). VDSS has a map of where services are available and will share that with SLAT members.

VDSS has also submitted plans to the federal government for expansion of evidence-based services as more are needed across the state. Those services are currently limited to those on the federal clearing-house and would include four services: Brief Strategic Therapy, Family Check-up, Home Builders and Motivational Interviewing. If SLAT members know of other evidence-based services being used in their localities, Ms. Parente asked that they let Elizabeth Lee know.

There was a discussion about kinship navigators and if those services are reimbursable through CSA. Those services are not covered under BRAVO/Family First evidence-based treatments because the service is not a “well-supported” model. It is agreed that this can be a valuable services and that a further discussion should be held on this topic.

### **OCS Report**

Scott Reiner reported on the following items:

- Year-end expenditure and utilization numbers – A handout was shared with SLAT members providing a summary and comparison of CSA utilization and expenditure data from FY2015 through FY2021. Expenditures for FY2021 were flat as compared to FY2020.
- Transfer of SPED to DOE Workgroup – Meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held on November 30. A preliminary report has just been submitted with a final report due November 1, 2022.
- SPED Rate Setting – The study has been concluded and standardized rates will be released soon. The rates will become effective July 1, 2022.
- Report on HB2212 - Requires OCS to provide for the effective implementation of CSA in all localities by regularly monitoring local performance measures and child and family outcomes and providing technical assistance to and working with local programs that are consistently underperforming to develop a corrective action plan.
  - Funding for 1 FTE was included in the legislation and that position has been filled. A workgroup assisted OCS with developing a methodology for the corrective action plan and defining terms such as “underperforming.” As required, a report has recently been submitted to the General Assembly.
  - Mr. Reiner further reported that OCS has asked for state funding to add four additional program consultants that would be positioned regionally to provide technical support to localities. OCS has also requested state funds to provide each locality with a minimum of \$50,000 in administrative funding.
- Policy Revisions – At the SEC’s September 9, 2021 meeting, two policies a *draft Family Engagement (Policy 3.3)* and a *draft FAPT and Alternate Multi-disciplinary Teams (Policy 3.2)* were approved for a 60-day public comment period ending November 12, 2021.

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Reiner noted that Health and Human Resources Secretary, Dr. Daniel Carey has stepped-down as Secretary. Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris has been appointed as Secretary.

### **Member Updates**

Members reported on activities, and the statuses of ongoing projects, new programs and grant opportunities. Members continue to work within their agencies and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth and families of Virginia.

Judge Campbell reported that during the pandemic the Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts have been seeing more domestic violence and neglect cases.

Nina Marino (DBHDS) reported that DBHDS has submitted several legislative proposals to assist DBHDS in addressing school-based mental health needs. She also reported that DBHDS has received funding to address substance use and plans to utilize part of the funding for an adolescent needs assessment. The DBHDS Office of Child and Family Services will be offering an Adolescent and Young Adult Substance Use Symposium on November 16 and 17, 2021.

The CSA Coordinators' Network has established several committees to monitor legislative activities and review proposed SEC policies. In addition a Data Analysis Committee is directing a project to evaluate the use of virtual and hybrid FAPT meetings, as well as the overall impact of these models on CSA programs.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Rebecca Vinroot seconded by Em Parente and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2022.